

Bessie Reid House
CT-253
3950 Faith Lane
Huntingtown, Calvert County
Rosemary Faya Prola
July 27, 2007

ADDENDUM

Section 7. Description

According to family members, the building located south of the tobacco barn constructed by Jesse Reid in the mid-twentieth century is a stable, not a tobacco barn as described in an earlier survey. The structure has collapsed.

Section 8. Significance

The Bessie Reid House was described as a "significant representative of the agricultural lifestyle of Calvert County tobacco farmers during the later 19th and early 20th centuries." (CT-253, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, 22 January 2003) A 2007 survey associated the property with the transition from tenant farming to land ownership by African Americans along Ponds Wood Road between 1889 and 1958. Prior to this period, very few African Americans owned land in the Huntingtown area. Jesse Reid and his wife, Lydia, were Breezy Point tenant farmers who purchased 125 acres of land on Ponds Wood Road in 1930. The Bessie Reid House is included as a contributing resource in CT-1314 on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

CAPSULE SUMMARY

CT-253

Bessie Reid House

3950 Faith Lane

Huntingtown, Calvert County

Circa Mid 19th Century, Circa 1940

Private

The Bessie Reid House at 3950 Faith Lane and associated domestic and agricultural buildings are significant representatives of the agricultural lifestyle of Calvert County tobacco farmers during the later 19th and early 20th centuries. During the second quarter of the 20th century the farm was acquired by African-American tobacco farmer Jessie H. Reid and his wife, Ledia Jones. The original portion of the house appears to date to the mid-19th century, while the two-story front portion of the house was added to the original dwelling circa 1940 by the Reid family. The circa 1940 addition is indicative of the persistence in Calvert County of the cross-gable, center-hall-plan house, essentially a late-19th-century residential building form, through the middle of the 20th century. The property remains in the Reid family to the present day.

Located amidst open agricultural fields in a rural area in Calvert County, Maryland, the dwelling at 3950 Faith Lane was constructed in two major phases. The original portion of the house, the one-and-a-half-story, gable-roof wood-frame ell on the southwest elevation, appears to date to the second quarter of the 19th century. The two-story, wood-frame cross-gable portion facing Ponds Wood Road was built onto the original house by the Reid family circa 1940. Clad in asbestos shingles, the addition has a solid concrete-block foundation, a cross-gable roof sheathed in v-crimp metal sheets, and two interior-end, s brick chimneys with heavily corbeled caps. The three-bay façade features a central gable and a full-width, half-hip-roof screened-in porch. Other notable elements of the addition include a full basement, a wood box cornice, and 2/2 wood-sash windows with unmolded and unmitered wood surrounds and a projecting sill. Also on the site are four tobacco barns, one of which appears to date to the third quarter of the 19th century, a corn crib, and a meat house.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-253

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bessie Reid House
other Lydia M. Reid Subdivision

2. Location

street and number 3950 Faith Lane not for publication
city, town Huntingtown vicinity
county Calvert

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bessie J. Reid et al
street and number 2695 Ponds Wood Road telephone Unknown
city, town Huntingtown state MD zip code 20639

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 15:273
city, town Pr. Frederick liber ABE282 folio 564

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	7 1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	7 1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-253

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located amidst open agricultural fields in a rural area in Calvert County, Maryland, the dwelling at 3950 Faith Lane was constructed in two major phases. The original portion of the house, the one-and-a-half-story, gable-roof wood-frame ell on the southwest elevation, appears to date to the middle of the 19th century. The two-story, wood-frame cross-gable portion facing Ponds Wood Road was built onto the original house by the Reid family circa 1940. Several significant domestic and agricultural buildings exist on the site, including a meat house and several tobacco barns, one of which may date to the early 19th century.

SETTING. The house is located at the west corner of Faith Lane and Ponds Wood Road. Faith Lane, only recently paved, was originally a private lane and now runs from Ponds Wood Road past the southeast side of the house where it is lined on the northwest side by mature cedar trees. The road then turns ninety degrees southeast and continues towards the cluster of barns. The house is close to Faith Lane but faces Ponds Wood Road. Open agricultural fields, defined by mature tree lines, are located between the house and Ponds Wood Road and to the northeast and east. The southwest lot line is indicated by a forested area behind the house. Directly southwest of the house is a recently constructed dwelling which now serves as the residence of a member of the Reid family. The house itself is situated on a grassy knoll with scattered mature trees and plantings.

PRIMARY RESOURCE. The oldest portion of the house is said to be the rear ell. It is a one-and-a-half-story wood-frame building clad in asbestos shingles with a solid concrete-block foundation, 6/6 wood-sash windows and an interior-end, square, brick chimney. A small front-gable extension has been added to the southwest elevation. There is a one-story, shed-roof extension clad in vinyl siding on the southeast elevation of the ell which appears to have originally been a porch. Although much of the exterior of this portion of the building has been altered or obscured, the overall proportions of the ell suggests a form similar to mid-19th-century tenant houses with its one-over-one plan and half-story level.

The front two-story portion of the house was built onto the original house circa 1940 but adopts the traditional form of the late-19th and early-20th-century Calvert County cross-gable farmhouse. As is common practice in the county, the addition was constructed perpendicular to the original dwelling, which became an ell, and the façade reoriented towards the road. Also clad in asbestos shingles, the addition has a solid concrete-block foundation, a cross-gable roof sheathed in v-crimp metal sheets, and two interior end brick chimneys with heavily corbeled caps. The three-bay façade features a central gable and a full-width, half-hip-roof screened-in porch. Other notable elements of the addition include a full basement, a wood box cornice, and 2/2 wood-sash windows with unmolded and unmitered wood surrounds and projecting sills.

SECONDARY RESOURCES. Immediately to the south of the house is a one-story, wood-frame meat house clad in plywood boards in which were hung cured meats. The building, which appears to date to the second quarter of the 20th century, has a solid concrete-block foundation and a front-gable roof sheathed in v-crimp metal sheets. An earlier survey conducted on the property indicates that the meat house at one time had board-and-batten siding. (1) Also located behind the house is a non-historic one-story wood-frame shed, circa 1970, which is clad in plywood boards and has a shed roof sheathed in corrugated metal.

Located a short distance to the southeast of the house is a grouping of three barns and a corn crib. The corn crib is a wood-frame building located northeast of the barns and is the smallest of the complex of agricultural buildings. At the time of the survey the building had just been moved to its current location from a site directly across Faith Lane from the house. The corn crib and the two larger wood-frame barns appear to date to the second quarter of the 20th century. The oldest in this complex of buildings is a tobacco barn located southwest of the two large barns and corn crib. It is a one-and-a-half-story wood-frame building clad in vertical flush wood boards with a gable roof. Although the building was badly deteriorated at the time of this survey, a previously conducted survey suggests that the barn may date to the third quarter of the 19th century. (2) According to this survey, the wood-frame barn was moved to the site, and features a hewn log frame with mortise-and-tenon joints with trunnels, and "forged loop-end strap-hinges." The survey also indicates that the building has doors on each elevation, and continuous sills which suggest a date of construction prior to the late 19th century as they provided for no interior access by horse-drawn or gasoline-powered

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Bessie Reid House
Continuation Sheet

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vehicles.

North of the house on the south side of Ponds Wood Road is a tobacco barn also associated with the site. The wood-frame barn is clad in a combination of vertical flush wood boards and v-crimp metal sheets, and has a gable roof sheathed in metal. There is a small shed-roof extension to the southeast elevation.

ENDNOTES

- (1) CT-253, Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.
- (2) CT-253, Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	c1850, c1940	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	c1850, c1940		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The historic dwelling and associated domestic and agricultural buildings located at 3950 Faith Lane are significant representatives of the agricultural lifestyle of Calvert County tobacco farmers during the later 19th and early 20th centuries. The original portion of the house, likely dating to the middle of the 19th century, and the hewn tobacco barn are rare survivors of a tobacco farmstead of the period. The remaining agricultural buildings and domestic outbuildings are representative of a tobacco farmstead from the early 20th century. During the second quarter of the 20th century the farm was acquired by African-American tobacco farmer Jessie H. Reid and his wife, Ledia Jones, who together raised fourteen children on the farm. (1) The two-story front portion of the house, remarkably similar to the house directly across from Ponds Wood Road, was added to the original dwelling circa 1940 by the Reid family. The house, which remains in the Reid family to the present day, is indicative of the persistence in Calvert County of the cross-gable, center-hall-plan house, essentially a late-19th-century residential building form, through the middle of the 20th century.

ENDNOTES

(1) Reid, Russell, Jr. On site interview by Carrie E. Albee, January 8, 2003.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-253

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 9.25 acres

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name North Beach

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic house is located at 3950 Faith Lane in Huntingtown, Calvert County, Maryland. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 15, Parcel 273 since its initial construction in the early 19th century. The current deed to the property is found in the land records of Calvert County in the Calvert County Courthouse in Prince Frederick: Deed Book ABE 282, Folio 564.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carrie E. Albee, Architectural Historian

organization EHT Traceries, Inc.

date 1/22/03

street and number 1121 5th Street, North

telephone 202-393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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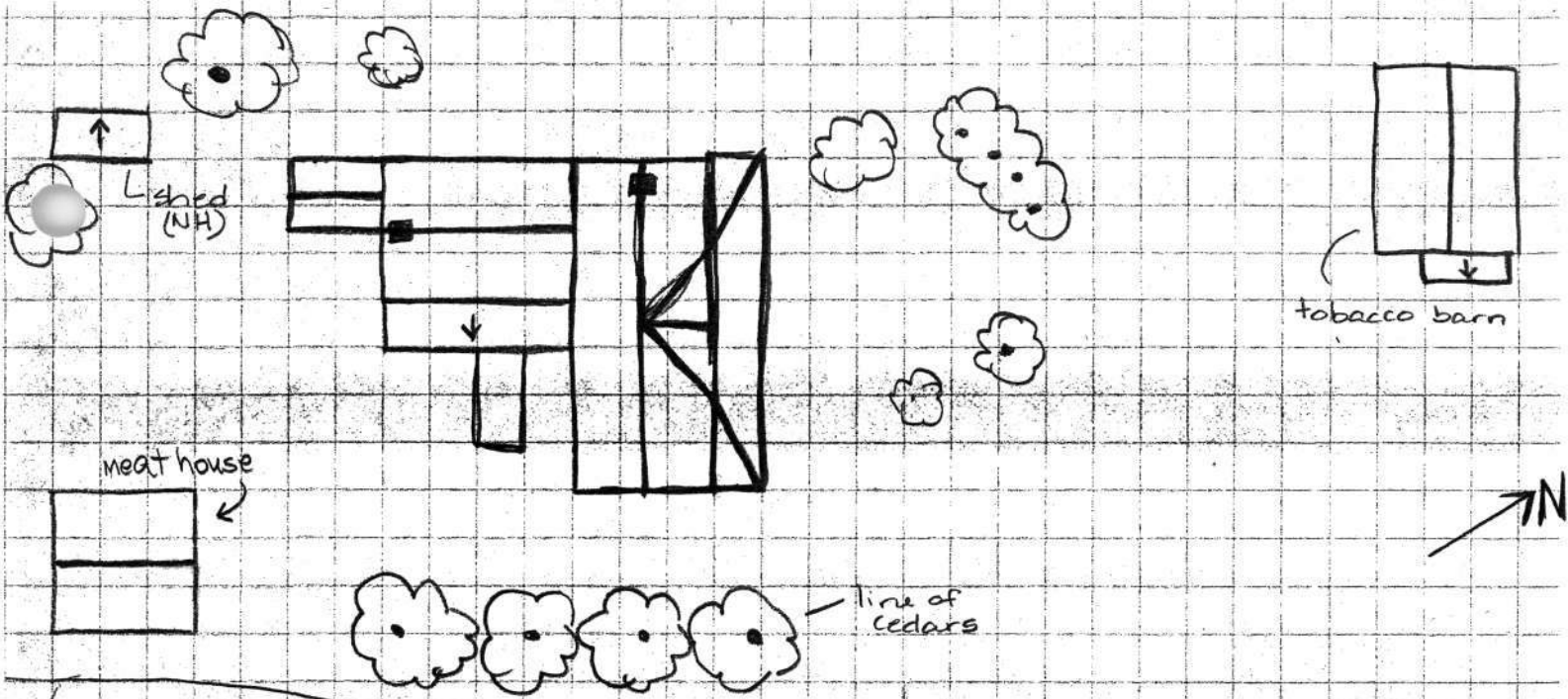
Name Bessie Reid House

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CT-253, Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

Reid, Russell, Jr. On site interview by Carrie E. Albee, January 8, 2003.



asphalt

Faith Lane

→ to Ponds
Wood Road →

RESOURCE SKETCH MAY
CT-253
BESSIE REID FARM
HUNTINGTOWN
CALVERT COUNTY

dirt

tobacco barns

corn barn/crib

(recently moved from
beside house)

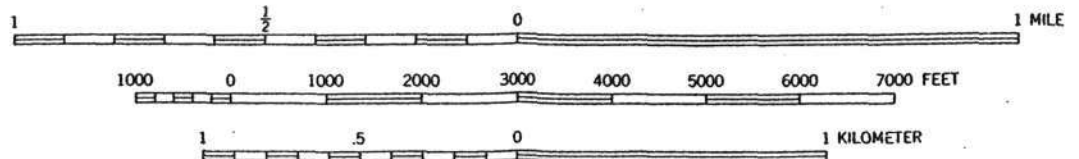


NORTH BEACH, MD.

N 3837.5—W 7630/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 5661 II NE—SERIES V833

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL, 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 1 FOOT AT CHESAPEAKE BEACH

CT-253
Bessie Reid Farm
3950 Faith Lane
Huntingtown, Calvert County
North Beach USGS Quad



CT-253

BESSIE REID FARM
3950 FAITH LANE
CALVERT COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

HOUSE, NORTHEAST ELEVATION

1 OF 5



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BESSIE REID FARM

3950 FAITH LANE

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

HOUSE, NORTH CORNER

2 OF 5



CT-253

BESSIE REID FARM

3950 FAITH LANE

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

HOUSE, SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

3 OF 5



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BESSIE REID FARM

3950 FAITH LANE

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

TOBACCO BARN, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

4 OF 5



CT-253

BESSIE REID FARM

3950 FAITH LANE

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

TOBACCO BARN, SOUTH CORNER

5 OF 5